



kingdom CULTURE

Life Group Discussion Guide Week 6 7/27/25

Message Summary: Are you hungry for deeper connection with God, or are your spiritual practices merely a performance for others? In her message, Elisabeth Lectka explores the powerful teachings of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount, emphasizing that true righteousness isn't about outward piety but the alignment of our hearts with God. Elisabeth illustrates how, instead of seeking validation through flashy religious acts—whether it's giving to the poor, praying audibly, or fasting with a somber face—Jesus invites us to engage in these spiritual practices with sincerity and humility. Even the Pharisees, known for their strict adherence to the law, were called out for their hypocrisy, reminding us that God's focus is on our hearts, not just our actions. Through prayer, generosity, and fasting done in secret, we can cultivate intimacy with God, allowing His grace to overflow into our relationships with others. This message is an urgent reminder that our spiritual practices should draw us closer to God rather than seeking applause from those around us.

Conversation Starter: Do you prefer to be outside in the heat or inside in the air conditioning?

Prayer:

Open our hearts to Your word, Your truth, and Your direction.

Read the passage together:

Matthew 6:1-18

3-Question Study Method

Use this method to discuss the passage

1. What is the passage about?
2. What lesson do I learn?
3. How will I apply this to my life?

Discussion Questions:

- How does Biblical righteousness differ from how our culture may define it today?
- According to Matthew 6:1-18, what are the dangers of practicing spiritual disciplines for the recognition of others?
- Receiving honor from people can distract us from the true relationship and recognition we seek from God. How can you ensure that your actions are focused on God rather than on what others think of you?
- What does it mean to seek the "true reward" from God, as opposed to the recognition of others? How can this perspective change the way we live out our faith?
- How do spiritual practices like prayer, fasting, and giving help us align our hearts with God?
- Jesus' teachings were delivered to an audience shaped by an honor and shame culture. How does understanding this cultural context help us better interpret His warnings in Matthew 6:1-18?
- What does it mean to give in such a way that "your left hand does not know what your right hand is doing"? How can we practice this kind of generosity?
- The spiritual discipline of fasting is less familiar to us today. How can we incorporate fasting into our spiritual lives in a meaningful way?
- How will you adapt your spiritual practices based on what you have learned from this passage of scripture? How can you be more mindful of your heart's condition when you engage in spiritual activities like prayer or attending church?

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for the fellowship and the insights we've shared. May Your Word continue to guide us and transform our hearts. Help us to align our lives with Your will, seeking Your kingdom and righteousness above all else. Expand our time so we can invest and abide in spiritual practices that bring us into closer relationship with you! Strengthen our faith and deepen our love for one another. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.